

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendment and following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-54 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 8, 14, 21, 26, 33, 39 and 46 are independent. All of the pending claims stand rejected. By this amendment, new claims 55-74 are added. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-11, 13-15, 17, 18, 20-27, 29, 30, 32-36, 38-40, 42, 43 and 45-54 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,298,405 to Ito ("Ito"). Claims 3, 16, 28 and 41 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ito in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,970,181 to Ohtsu ("Ohtsu"). Claims 6, 12, 19, 31, 37 and 44 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being over Ito in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,552,743 to Rissman ("Rissman").

In *Response to Arguments* section of the Final Office Action, the Examiner appears to equate the printer controller (23) of the printer device as shown in Fig. 23 of Ito to the "determination unit" of the present application. The Final Office Action indicates, *inter alia*, that "In both examples, the printer controller performs as the determination unit since it has to make a determination as to whether the printer is going to access the VTR's memory for information, or if the printer is receiving information that is reflective of the direct printing operation." [page 3 of the Final Office Action]

First of all, Ito discloses a system which prints an image stored in a recording medium of a camera by a printer. Ito also discloses as one embodiment an operating unit of the VTR 10 for selecting an image and designating to print the image. See, e.g., column 15, lines 21-22 along with Fig. 1. Another embodiment of Ito discloses an operating unit 22 of the printer 101 for entering instructions, including an instruction for searching for a specific picture, to the VTR 102 (column 21, line 49 to column 22, line 14).

However, the printer of Ito does not directly access to the magnetic tape of the VTR, but merely sends various instructions to the VTR, and the VTR does the searching. Therefore, in either case, the image recorded on the magnetic tape is managed by the VTR and sent to the printer, and direct access to the magnetic tape by the printer is neither disclosed or suggested by Ito. In other words, Ito fails to teach the control relation of the first type as specifically recited in the claims of the present invention. In the first type control relation of the present invention, the image processing apparatus can handle the image sensing (storage) apparatus as if some kind of detachable memory is connected to the processing apparatus.

Accordingly, Ito simply fails to teach “a determination unit” of the present invention that determines whether the control relationship between the VTR and printer is a first type or a second type as specifically recited in the pending claims.

As Applicant understand it, other cited references (i.e., Ohtsu and Rissman) also fail to teach the “determination unit” of the present invention as discussed above.

Accordingly, each of claims 1, 8, 14, 21, 26, 33, 39 and 46 is believed neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of the cited reference (i.e., Ito, Ohtsu and Rissman), either taken alone or in combination.

Reconsideration and withdrawn of the rejections of claims 1, 8, 14, 21, 26, 33, 39 and 46 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

Applicant has not individually addressed the rejections of the dependent claims because Applicant submits that the independent claims from which they respectively depend are in condition for allowance as set forth above. Applicant however reserves the right to address such rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary.

New Claims

Claims 55-74 have been added to recite the claimed invention in an alternative manner. Support for the new claims may be found throughout the specification as originally filed including, e.g., page 17, lines 1-4, page 16, lines 25-27, page 18, lines 1-5. Specifically, each of claims 55-74 depends from one of the independent claims 1, 8, 14, 21, 26, 33, 39 and 46, either directly or indirectly. Accordingly, claims 55-74 are also believed patentable over the cited references (i.e., Ito, Ohtsu and Rissman) for at least the similar reasons discussed above for claims 1, 8, 14, 21, 26, 33, 39 and 46.

Applicant believes that the application as amended including the new claims is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

AUTHORIZATION

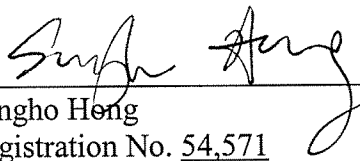
No petitions or additional fees are believed due for this amendment and/or any accompanying submissions. However, to the extent that any additional fees and/or petition is required, including a petition for extension of time, Applicant hereby petitions the Commissioner to grant such petition, and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, including any fees which may be required for such petition, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 1232-5080). A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: December 18, 2007

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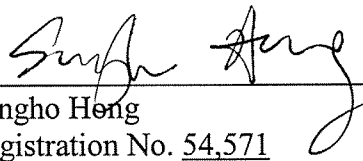
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